

Human Services and Education appropriations bill. I will continue to search for ways to increase LIHEAP funding and likewise will continue to search for additional offsets to help pay for such an increase.

I believe in the LIHEAP program; I believe it serves a vital function in helping as many as 5 million low-income households who need a bit of help paying their energy bills or weatherizing their homes.

However, I also believe that as Americans, we can and must find ways to pay for our priorities. LIHEAP is worth funding, and it's worth paying for.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

HONORING ARMY SPECIALIST CHRISTOPHER T. MONROE

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man from Kendallville, Christopher Monroe, 19 years old, died on October 25 in Basra, Iraq. With his entire life before him, Chris risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Remembered for his strong family ties and devotion to the Army, Chris was killed while filling in for a friend on a convoy, a change from his typical desk job. After September 11, Chris had yearned to serve his country and follow in the family tradition of military service. He begged his mother to allow him to enlist early at age 17. The 2004 East Noble High School student had been in Iraq for only a couple months when he was killed. Friends and family recounted that Chris was an outgoing, generous young man who had given up his Christmas leave to allow others in his unit to be with their families for the holidays. His mother, Annette, told local media outlets that she was proud of her son and that he died doing what he was born to do. Chris was engaged and was planning an October 2006 wedding.

Chris was killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was a member of the Army Reserve's 785th Military Police Battalion, based out of Fraser, MI. This brave young soldier leaves behind his father Perry Bolton II; his mother Annette Monroe; and his brothers Greg and Nick.

Today, I join Chris's family and friends in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Chris, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Chris was known for his dedication to his family and his love of country. Today and always, Chris will be remembered by family members, friends, and fellow Hoosiers as a true American

hero, and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Chris's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg:

We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Chris's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Christopher Monroe in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Chris's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Chris.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM O'NEILL

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant and a dear friend, former Connecticut Governor, William O'Neill.

I had the honor of serving the people of Connecticut alongside Bill O'Neill for over 15 years, during which time we shared many of the same views and principles about the future of our great State. When I first took office in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1975, Bill O'Neill was the majority leader of the Connecticut House of Representatives. And, in December 1980, as I was preparing to take the oath of office as a newly elected U.S. Senator, Bill O'Neill became the new Governor of Connecticut, replacing the beloved Ella Grasso, who had resigned for health reasons.

Bill O'Neill had a remarkable ability to connect with the citizens of Connecticut. He was a pragmatic leader, but he also took pains to be forward-thinking. As a result, not only did Bill serve one of the longest gubernatorial tenures in Connecticut history, he also had one of the most influential.

Bill O'Neill understood the immense value of education to both the future of our State and the entire Nation. He fought to pass the Education Enhancement Act, which, among other things, improved the quality of Connecticut teachers and improved student per-

formance. He oversaw the consolidation of the four "State" colleges—Eastern, Western, Southern, and Central Connecticut State University—into a stronger unified system. And he funded critical capital improvements on campuses throughout Connecticut.

He invested in a strong transportation infrastructure. In the aftermath of the tragic collapse of the Mianus River Bridge, soon after he became Governor, he responded not with a quick fix but by making long-term investments that have served Connecticut and the rest of the northeastern United States for decades and that will continue to do so for years to come. He made these commitments despite the devastating effects of the Reagan administration's budget cuts. He looked to impact Connecticut's long-term needs, and, as a consequence, he repaired Connecticut's roadways, overhauled the bus and train lines, and modernized Bradley International Airport.

Bill O'Neill worked hard to protect the environment. He strictly enforced the Clean Water Act, instituted reporting requirements for toxic substances used in manufacturing, and set aside large tracts of land to be used for the benefit of the general public.

Governor O'Neill was also dedicated to bringing the best public servants, regardless of background, into our State government. He nominated the individuals who would become the first woman chief justice and the first African-American justice on the Connecticut Supreme Court. And he appointed the first woman attorney general and treasurer in Connecticut history.

Bill O'Neill will be honored this week on the 15th anniversary of his retirement from public service at Central Connecticut State University, where there is a professorship in "Public Policy and Practical Politics" endowed in his name. The athletic center at Western Connecticut State University, where I recently had the honor of delivering remarks with former President Clinton, also bears the name of the former Governor.

It is fitting and appropriate that Bill O'Neill's name graces these fine institutions of higher learning and others throughout the State of Connecticut, and that he is being honored with this ceremony.

Bill O'Neill has served this country for over 50 years—as a fighter pilot during the Korean war, as a six-term member of the Connecticut House of Representatives, as Lieutenant Governor, and as the Governor of Connecticut for more than a decade.

At a critical time in our State's and our country's history, Connecticut was fortunate to have the leadership of this remarkable patriot. His wisdom, his vision, and his ability to accomplish concrete changes for the good of the people of our State set a standard for public service that inspired me and I know continues to inspire those of us who believe in the value public service.